



## Judicial Council of California

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### TASK FORCE ON SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

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**TO:** Interested Persons and Organizations

**FROM:** Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants  
Justice Kathleen E. O'Leary, Chair  
Bonnie Rose Hough, Supervising Attorney

**DATE:** September 24, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Invitation to Comment on the draft *Statewide Action Plan for Serving Self-Represented Litigants*

**DEADLINE:** October 24, 2003

**CONTACT FOR NAME:** Kevin Chew  
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Enclosed is the draft *Statewide Action Plan for Serving Self-Represented Litigants*.

### This plan is for comment only

The report has not been approved by the Judicial Council, nor is intended to represent the views of the Judicial Council. This plan is being circulated for comment purposes only. Please distribute the plan to persons in your court, county or community interested in commenting. Additional copies of this plan are available at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/> or by contacting Kevin Chew at the address given above.

### About the plan

The draft *Statewide Action Plan for Serving Self-Represented Litigants* contains findings and recommendations of the Judicial Council's Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants, a 20-member body formed in May 2001. The task force was charged with finalizing development of a statewide action plan for serving self-represented litigants as well as to make recommendations to the Judicial Council, the State Bar, and other appropriate institutions about additional measures that should be considered to improve the way in which the legal system functions for self-represented litigants.

In this draft report, the task force has attempted to present a comprehensive statewide plan that effectively addresses the way in which courts are serving self-represented litigants. The task force has analyzed the self-represented litigants action plans submitted by the trial courts, consulted with Judicial Council advisory committees on subject matter concerns, and met with experts on serving self-represented litigants. These recommendations are designed to assist California's courts to continue their leadership role in creating systems that work to both improve management of cases involving self-represented litigants and to improve access to justice for the public.

#### Importance of the comment process

We encourage you to review the plan carefully. The task force welcomes comments as to its eight recommendations and corresponding strategies as well as all other issues under consideration. The comment process is vitally important to the work of the task force.

#### Submitting comments

The Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants will review all comments. Comments received will become part of the public record.

When reviewing the proposals and preparing your comments:

- Write your comments for each proposal on the Comment Form, directly on the proposal, or in a letter.
- Include the Comment Form for each proposal on which you are commenting (check either the "agree," "agree only if modified," or "do not agree" box).
- Specify the recommendation or report section numbers that correspond to your remarks.
- Letters and comments may also be e-mailed to: Kevin.Chew@jud.ca.gov .

For those with access to the World Wide Web, comments may be submitted via the judicial branch Web site:

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitations tocomment/spcommentform.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitations tocomment/spcommentform.htm)

The Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants encourages comments on its report and appreciates your participation in this process.